

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

- 5 1. A method for obtaining service when in a no-coverage area of a radiotelephone communication system, the method comprising the steps of:
 - storing information regarding a last known available communication system;
 - reporting the information about the last known available communication system to a user of the radiotelephone; and
- 10 using the information to obtain service from the last known available communication system.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the information in the storing step includes recording information about a time since the radiotelephone was last in contact with the communication system, and wherein the reporting step includes reporting the time information to the user.

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3. The method of claim 1, wherein the information in the storing step includes recording information about a location where the radiotelephone was last in contact with the communication system, and wherein the reporting step includes reporting the location information to the user.

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4. The method of claim 3, further comprising the step of determining directional information to the location from the storing step, and wherein the reporting step includes reporting the directional information to a user to follow to obtain service from the last known available communication system.

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5. The method of claim 1, wherein the storing step includes determining a location of the last known available communication system using a location system independent of the communication system itself.

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6. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of estimating that a loss of service from the communication system is imminent, and wherein the storing step includes using information from the communication system to determine a location of available service before service is lost from the communication system.

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7. The method of claim 1, further comprising a step of detecting signals from a communication system that is too far away for two-way communication with the radiotelephone, and the reporting step includes reporting to the user whether a strongest of such signals is from the last known available communication system.

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8. The method of claim 1, further comprising a step of detecting signals from location-broadcasting network access points of the communication system that are too far away for two-way communication with the radiotelephone, and wherein the storing

step includes recording the broadcasted locations of network access points from the detecting step, and wherein the reporting step includes reporting the broadcasted locations of the network access points from the detecting step to the user.

9. A method for obtaining service when in a no-coverage area of a radiotelephone communication system, the method comprising the steps of:

 losing service from the communication system;

 storing information regarding the last available service from the communication system;

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 reporting the information about the last available service from the communication system to a user; and

 using the information to obtain service from the communication system.

10. The method of claim 9, wherein the information in the storing step includes recording information about a location where the radiotelephone was last in contact with the communication system.

5 11. The method of claim 9, wherein the information in the storing step includes information about at least one of a time and location where the radiotelephone was last in contact with the communication system.

10 12. The method of claim 9, further comprising the step of determining directional information to the location from the storing step, and wherein the reporting step includes reporting the directional information to a user to follow to obtain service from the communication system.

15 13. The method of claim 9, further comprising the step of estimating that a loss of service from a communication system is imminent, and wherein the storing step includes using information from the communication system to determine a location of available service before service is lost from the communication system.

20 14. The method of claim 9, further comprising a step of detecting signals from a communication system that is too far away for two-way communication with the radiotelephone, and the reporting step includes reporting to the user whether a strongest of such signals is from the communication system.

15. A mobile radiotelephone operable to obtain service when in a no-coverage area of a communication network, the radiotelephone comprising:
 - a user interface;
 - a memory;
- 5 a processor coupled to the user interface and the memory, the processor controls radio communication circuitry for communication with the communication network, wherein the processor stores information regarding the last known available service from the communication network in the memory and reports this information to a user of the radiotelephone through the user interface when the radiotelephone is in a no-coverage area, such that the user can use this information to obtain service from the last known available communication network.
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16. The radiotelephone of claim 15, wherein the information includes information about at least one of a time and location where the radiotelephone was last in contact with the communication network.
- 5 17. The radiotelephone of claim 15, wherein the processor calculates and displays directions on the user interface for a user to follow to obtain service from the communication network.
- 10 18. The radiotelephone of claim 15, wherein the processor estimates when a loss of service from a communication network is imminent, communicates with the communication network to determine a location of available service before service is lost, and stores this location information in the memory for presentation on the user interface.
- 15 19. The radiotelephone of claim 15, wherein when service is lost from the communication network, the processor determines information about at least one of a time and location where the radiotelephone was last in contact with the communication network and stores this information in the memory for presentation on the user interface.
- 20 20. The radiotelephone of claim 15, wherein the processor detects signals from a communication system that is too far away for two-way communication with the radiotelephone, determines whether a strongest of such signals is from the communication network, and reports this information on the user interface.